

many, as the right of an army to invest a town and starve it into surrender...

U. S. WILL NOT CHANGE VIEWS ON WAR ZONE

Amsterdam (via London), Feb. 19.—A dispatch received here from Berlin quotes the "Vossische Zeitung" as the latest German communication to the United States as follows: "The new German measures at sea are directed against two of the allies of Great Britain. One is the starvation of the American merchant ships, and we shall make a struggle with starvation in the firm consciousness that we will pull through, even if no other ally should be able to reach us. Great Britain, as a result of our blockade, must experience severe damage."

Stands Firm for Right of American Ships to Safe Conduct.

FLOATING MINES GREATEST MENACE

Germany Will Be Held Accountable for Any Loss Caused by These at Sea.

Washington, Feb. 19.—Following a long discussion of the German note and the war zone proclamation as follows: "That the United States, according to international law, has the right to safe conduct for its ships to belligerent ports when such ships carry cargoes non-contraband in character, and that it will insist on this right and will hold Germany responsible for any violation of it."

That whatever controversy the United States may have with Great Britain is no concern of Germany, and whatever controversy the United States may have with Germany is no concern of Great Britain.

The only interest of this government is in the protection of American lives and property at sea.

That the government believes Germany will use every effort to protect American ships, even going so far as to use force to prevent them from being sunk by floating mines outside American waters.

Mines the Chief Concern. That because of this the chief concern of the government is in the danger resulting from floating mines outside American waters.

That no warning will be given to American ship owners to keep their vessels away from the German war zone because of danger there.

That the government will not feel that it is its duty to prevent the sinking of American ships by floating mines.

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STEEL MAKERS HARD HIT

German Decree Stops Shipment of Manganese to U. S.

Pittsburgh, Feb. 19.—The Pittsburgh steel companies are again suffering from the effects of the German war zone declaration caused a cessation of the shipping of manganese to this country, and the price of manganese has jumped from \$100 a ton in Baltimore to \$100 a ton in Pittsburgh. At this price one lot of 200 tons of this alloy for steelmakers was bought here by contracts held by steelmakers with dealers for their supply this year are likely to be cancelled because of the war. A scurrying of consumers for the new stock has started, for that steel which is being manufactured by the steel industry will be seriously threatened unless some way of getting manganese to this country can be found. Several plants are already being erected to manufacture the alloy, but none has yet begun operations.

AMERICANS SLOW ON GERMAN LOAN

Berne, Feb. 19.—American bankers have again been sounded as to whether they will subscribe the new German loan which will be subscribed the new German loan which will be subscribed the new German loan.

Further north the Germans have practically abandoned the movement toward the Niemen.

Throughout the Eastern region of the war, the Germans are believed to have only five or six corps, which are being used to guard their rear.

This position is now much less serious for the Russians than the new developments in Northern Poland.

The energy of the new operations from Siempok is intensifying now that the Germans have abandoned their attempt to threaten Warsaw from the Niemen.

The Austro-German attacks on the Eastern Carpathian passes are beginning to slacken through loss of men and the absence of reinforcements.

The Austrians have brought down an aeroplane with two German officers and one Austrian in it, and a number of other German officers.

The Austrians have yielded ground in the heavily contested region southeast of Tscholka, where their main depot has been surrounded and destroyed.

The British reply to the American note pretends that Germany has no difference with the United States.

The German government has even declared itself ready to accept a distribution of imported grain to civilians by American aid.

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GERMANS HACK TOWARD A BASE ABOVE WARSAW

Fight Russian Cavalry to Seize Plonsk for Attack on Capital.

COLUMNS IN NORTH IMPEDED BY RIVER

Narew Protects Poland from Invaders Out of East Prussia—Retreat from Augustowo.

Petrograd, Feb. 19.—The Russian columns, which for several days held their pursuers at bay in the region of Augustowo, ten miles across the border in the East Prussia, after the retreat from East Prussia, have again retired, and the fighting is now most violent near Orowiec, twenty-five miles to the south.

Further north the Germans have practically abandoned the movement toward the Niemen.

Throughout the Eastern region of the war, the Germans are believed to have only five or six corps, which are being used to guard their rear.

This position is now much less serious for the Russians than the new developments in Northern Poland.

The energy of the new operations from Siempok is intensifying now that the Germans have abandoned their attempt to threaten Warsaw from the Niemen.

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USE OF U. S. FLAG UPHELD BY BRITISH

Continued from page 1

the government of the United States feels a certain anxiety in considering the possibility of any general use of the flag of the United States by British merchant vessels.

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POINCARÉ HOPED FOR PEACE UNTIL GERMANY STRUCK

Wrote King July 31 British Attitude Would Decide Matter.

CORRESPONDENCE TO HOUSE OF COMMONS

President's Letter of July 31 and Reply of August 1 Made Public.

London, Feb. 19.—The letter which the French President addressed to King George, and his majesty's reply on the eve of the outbreak of the war, which Sir Edward Grey promised the House of Commons to make public, was issued today. The letters follow: "Paris, July 31, 1914.

"Dear and Great Friend: "In the great events through which Europe is passing, I feel bound to convey to your majesty the information which the government of the republic has received from Germany. Military preparations which are being undertaken by the imperial government, especially in the immediate neighborhood of the French frontier, are being pushed forward every day with fresh vigor and speed. France, resolved to continue to the very end to do all that lies within her power to maintain peace, has up to the present confined herself solely to the most indispensable precautionary measures, but it does not appear that any moderation will be shown by the German government's action; indeed, quite the reverse.

"We are perhaps then, in spite of the moderation of the government of the Republic and the calm of public opinion, on the eve of the most terrible events. From all information which reaches us, it would seem that war would be inevitable if the British government would not intervene in a conflict in which France might be engaged. If, on the other hand, Germany were convinced that the entente cordiale would be maintained, it would be inclined to a moderation of its attitude, and the taking of the field side by side, there would be the greatest chance that peace would remain unbroken.

"It is true that our military and naval arrangements have complete liberty to your majesty's government and that in letters exchanged in 1913 between Sir Edward Grey and Paul Cambon, Great Britain and France entered into nothing more than an agreement to consult one another in the event of European tension and to examine in concert whether common action were advisable; but the character of the close friendship which exists between the two countries, and the entente cordiale which has been the result of the British government's action; indeed, quite the reverse.

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